

**MINUTES**  
**STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**April 2, 2002**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Neil Bernstein  
Robin Fortney  
Kathy Gourley  
Gary Phillips, Chairperson  
Timothy Sproul

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jeff Vonk  
Laura Jackson

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mike Brandrup  
John Pearson  
Daryl Howell

**CALL TO ORDER**

The April 2, 2002 meeting the State Preserves Advisory Board was called to order at 8:30 a.m. at the Mills County Courthouse, in Glenwood, Iowa.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Remove: Item 5 Silver Lake Fen  
Add: Item 5 Seed Harvest Program - Bill Johnson, DNR Seed Harvest Team.

<p><b><i>Motion was made by Robin Fortney to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Neil Bernstein. Motion carried unanimously.</i></b></p>
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**APPROVE MINUTES**

Neil Bernstein said he would like the minutes from the January meeting to reflect that the Board told Dick Heft from the Linn County Conservation Board that they could not act on preserve status for the donated land to be added to the Rock Island Preserve without a formal survey being done to see if it was in fact preserve quality. The board advised Dan Biechler that the board would like a more substantive management plan for the prairie area and that listing a highway project as a non-compatible usage was not necessary.

<p><b><i>Motion was made by Kathy Gourley to approve the January 18, 2002 minutes as amended. Seconded by Robin Fortney. Motion carried unanimously.</i></b></p>
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## **STATUS OF THE REORGANIZATION PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT**

Mike Brandrup said the Department has proposed a reorganization plan that would reduce the number of divisions from 7 to 3 and the number of bureaus from 20 down to 15. The proposed plan has been submitted to the Legislature for approval. In addition to these changes Director Vonk will be working toward decentralization of the Department over the next three to five years by moving between 130 and 150 positions from the central office out to the field.

## **RECOGNITION OF GARY PHILLIPS**

Mike Brandrup presented a plaque to Gary Phillips in honor of his six years of service to the State Preserves Advisory Board.

## **PALISADES-DOWS PRESERVE**

Daryl Howell said he received a letter from Dr. John Doershuk requesting permission to perform an archaeological study on the Palisades-Dows Preserve at no cost to the Board.

(A copy of Dr. Doershuk's letter of request is available in the Department's Record Center.)

***Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to approve the request as presented. Seconded by Kathy Gourley. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **SEED HARVEST REPORT**

Bill Johnson from the DNR Wildlife Bureau distributed a handout, which outlined the Departments proposal for harvesting seed in Sheeder, Rolling Thunder, Kalsow, Hayden, and Cayler Preserves. He gave a Power Point presentation outlining the Seed Harvest Program. He said they were hoping to harvest the same preserves as last year with the addition of Cayler Preserve. He said the staff at the Big Sioux Wildlife Unit would like to add on to their production area and are therefore requesting to be allowed use a combine with a rice head or an ATV with a stripper head into Cayler Preserve to assist in the harvest.

Neil Bernstein asked what sections of Cayler they were planning to combine.

Bill Johnson said they would like to use the combine on the 30 or 40 acres in the southeast corner of the preserve that would be burned as it would maximize their harvest.

Neil Bernstein expressed concern about the prairie bush clover known to be on the preserve.

John Pearson said although it was essentially all over, the bulk of it is more in the southwest and central area of the preserve.

Bill Johnson said he would be willing to mark off the area where the protected species is known to grow so that it could be avoided. He said what he is most interested in the eco-type grasses in that area because Kalsow and Steele Prairie State Preserves both have problems with a rust associated with big bluestem making it necessary to hand harvest seed from these preserves.

Neil Bernstein said there was not much big bluestem in Cayler Prairie and Lois Tiffany had told him that there was a problem with rust there as well.

Bill Johnson said in addition to the seed he hopes to harvest from Cayler preserve they will be harvesting seed from the State Wildlife Area that had been planted three or four years ago with seed that originated from Cayler.

Gary Phillips informed Mr. Johnson that there was a ten-acre parcel planted with local eco-type seed of rust free big bluestem and Indian grass in Emmet County. He said there was also several acres in the city of Esterville planted with local eco-type fungus free big bluestem.

***Motion was made by Timothy Sproul to approve the proposal for seed harvest at Sheeder, Rolling Thunder, Kalsow, Hayden, and Cayler Preserves. Seconded by Robin Fortney***

Neil Bernstein said he would like to add a provision that they scout Cayler Prairie prior to making the decision to harvest there.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

### **PROPOSAL SELECTION**

Kathy Gourley said a compilation of all known information on Glenwood State Hospital could be done for approximately \$3,000. She said a total inventory does not need to be done prior to granting an area the protection of preserve status so a summary of the information that is currently known may be enough to bring it into the preserves.

John Pearson asked if the Board wished to set aside the \$3,000 from FY03's budget to have the summary done or if they preferred to wait until next year. He said the State Preserves Advisory Board has consistently received \$27,000 each year up to FY02 when they received \$30,000. At this time however there is no way to predict if they will receive any and if so how much it would be.

***Motion was made by Neil Bernstein to set aside \$3,000 to do a summary of known data for the Glenwood State Hospital to determine its eligibility for preserve status. Seconded by Robin Fortney.***

Neil Bernstein said he felt it was important to establish an emergency status for Glenwood State Hospital.

Gary Phillips said that if the Board does not do anything at this time there is a strong threat of it being sold and developed.

Timothy Sproul said because this is probably one of the richest archaeological sites in the state and it is already in public ownership, the Board should seriously consider it for a preserve.

***Motion carried unanimously.***

The board discussed and scored the following proposals received for this FY03:

Akron-Westfield Community School	Small mammal survey of Mt. Talbot
Alex & Lensink	Archaeological survey of Wittrock Indian Village Preserve
Cady	Floristic inventory of Palisades-Dows Preserve
Cady	Floristic inventory of Rock Island Preserve
Debinski	Butterfly inventory of three prairie preserves
Ecocentrics	Animal survey of Baylor property
Ecocentrics	Small mammal survey of Mt. Talbot Preserve
Emerman	Determine ages of sand deposits on preserves
Freese	Floristic inventory of Hanging Bog Preserve
Freese	Floristic inventory of Mann Wilderness Preserve
Freese	Floristic inventory of Rock Island Preserve
Hazlett	Vascular flora of Stone State Park & Mt. Talbot Preserve
Hendrix	Inventory of bee diversity on prairie preserves
Hunziker	Flora study of Brush Creek Canyon Preserve
ISUAL	Archaeology survey of Anderson Prairie Preserve
ISUAL	Archaeological survey of Rolling Thunder Preserve
Johnson and Stark	Floristic inventory of Berry Woods Preserve
Mabry	Floristic inventory of Berry Woods Preserve
Norris & Farrar	Herbaceous survey of forest plots
Norris & Gerken	Floristic inventory of Retz Woods Preserve
Olsen	Butterfly survey of Rock Island Preserve & Addition
Olsen	Butterfly survey of Rolling Thunder Preserve
Parmelee	Animal survey of Woodland Mounds Preserve
Snopek & Snopek	Floristic inventory of Brushy Creek Preserve
VanDeWalle	Faunal survey of Rock Island Preserve

Scoring was done using the system listed in the Request for Proposals. John Pearson then averaged the ratings for each proposal and put them in ranked order as follows:

Proposals for FY2002-03	Amount
Ecocentrics (Baylor)	2315
Hazlett	200
Cady (Rock Island)	1650
Olsen (Rock Island Preserve & Addition)	1628
Mabry	2163
Norris & Farrar	5970
Norris & Gerken	2440

VanDeWalle	5843
Cady (Palisades-Dows)	2565

The board decided to stop allocation of funding at \$25,000. With \$3,000 reserved for the Glenwood study, the total requested funding is \$28,000. If the full \$30,000 budget is ultimately received, the remaining \$2,000 would be used for equipment or other expenses.

***Motion was made by Kathy Gourley to fund the above proposals in the order listed as funds are available. Seconded by Neil Bernstein. Motion carried unanimously.***

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Gary Phillips said he had received a letter from Don Koch stating that the Geological Survey Bureau would resume their support by providing a geologist to attend future State Preserves Advisory Board meetings.

Kathy Gourley said Donna Story and Bonnie Smalla are two volunteers who work at the Montauk Preserve who have been working with the textile collection, which consists primarily of dresses worn by the Larrabee women. They developed a CD featuring the collection, which has won a certificate of recognition from the State Historical Society for their outstanding program.

Kathy Gourley said Al and Louann Becker who live at Fort Atkinson will be nominated for the Governor's Volunteer Award for their efforts during the Fort Atkinson Field School in 2001.

Kathy Gourley said last year the Field School Committee had applied for a grant through the Historic Resource Development Program, which did not get funded because the money had not been available until after the field school, had been held. Diane Ford-Shivvers updated the material and resubmitted the proposal for a field school to be held in the summer of 2003. They are waiting for a response from the review panel.

Kathy Gourley said the National Park Service has a 'Save America's Treasures' program, which is for the rehabilitation of historic structures. She said she is trying to put together an application for funds to restore some of the buildings at Fort Atkinson.

Kathy Gourley said site containing an 1840's fort that was uncovered during the Martin Luther King Parkway expansion project also has at least two prehistoric components, which date back to approximately 1100 A.D. Most of the area has been paved to create a parking lot, which was to be used for the Court Avenue Entertainment Center Project. That project fell through so now the Science Center of Iowa is proposing to relocate there. The Historical Society is now

negotiating with the City of Des Moines and the Science Center to preserve the site during the construction.

John Pearson said he and Ruth Herzberg have been invited to a book signing for the "The Guide to Iowa's State Preserves" at the Enchanted Forest Book Store in Forest City on April 27 from 11 to 1. Following the book signing they will have a field trip through the Pilot Knob State Preserve.

John Pearson said he and Robin Fortney would be holding a canoe trip on June 1 and 2 down the Little Sioux River. They plan to put in at Twin Forks Wildlife Area float through Cayler Prairie and take out at Horseshoe Bend County Park on the first day and will explore Cheever Lake on the second day.

John Pearson said the Environment First Fund did come through and there are contracts in place for a variety of plant and animal surveys on public areas along the Wapsipinicon River and Yellow River State Forest. There are also some contracts to do plant and animal surveys in some privately owned fens and prairies in Fayette and Clayton Counties. The other major project being done is to develop a Website for the Preserves Information.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Gary Phillips said the next meeting would be at Wapsipinicon State Park in Anamosa on July 19, 2002.

#### **BOARD TOUR**

The Board toured the Glenwood State Hospital grounds and the Glenwood Museum on Monday, April 1.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Gary Phillips adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m., Tuesday, April 2, 2002.

Adjournment, 6  
Approve Agenda, 1  
Approve Minutes, 1

**A**

Board Tour, 6

**B**

Call to Order, 1

**C**

General Discussion, 5

**G**

Next Meeting, 6

**N**

Palisades-Dows Preserve  
Proposed Archaeological Study, 2  
Proposal selection, 3

**P**

Recognition of Gary Phillips, 2

**R**

Seed Harvest Report, 2  
Status of the Reorganization Plan for the Department,  
2

**S**